Claim Amendments

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The seal as claimed in claim 25 ~~2~~, wherein

the first cavity has ~~presents~~ a radially innermost bottom whose radial distance to the second deflector ring is at least 1.4 times the axial distance between the adjacent radial fins that bound the cavity.

4. (Currently amended) The seal as claimed in claim 25 ~~2~~, wherein a ~~the~~ first radial fin of the two radial fins ~~that~~ is arranged further ~~furthest~~ axially outward than a second of the two radial fins ~~at the seal~~ and at least partially closes off the seal with respect to an environment surrounding the seal in the axial direction is radially longer than the second radial fin ~~that lies axially opposite the first radial fin at the cavity~~.

5. (withdrawn) The seal as claimed in claim 4, wherein the radial distance between an inner lateral surface, facing the first deflector ring, of the second deflector ring and the axis of rotation increases as the axial proximity to the surrounding environment decreases, the inner lateral surface at least partially engaging radially around the radial fins and the first cavity.

6. (Currently amended) The seal as claimed in claim 25 ~~2~~,

wherein the first cavity is bound by annular surfaces that radially increase in distance from one another towards the second deflector ring.

7. (Previously presented) The seal as claimed in claim 6, wherein the annular surface is inclined at an angle of from 70° to 85° with respect to the axis of rotation.

8. (Currently amended) The seal as claimed in claim 25 ~~2~~, wherein the first cavity merges axially into a radial first annular gap between a ~~the~~ first radial fin of the two radial fins and the second deflector ring and into a radial second annular gap between a ~~the~~ second radial fin of the two radial fins and the second deflector ring.

9. (Previously presented) The seal as claimed in claim 8, wherein the first annular gap on an axially outer side of the first radial fin between the first deflector ring and the second deflector ring opens out freely into an environment axially surrounding the seal.

10. (Previously presented) The seal as claimed in claim 8, wherein the first annular gap is radially narrower than the second annular gap.

11. (Previously presented) The seal as claimed in claim 8, wherein the second annular gap runs radially closer to the axis of rotation than the first annular gap.

12. (withdrawn) The seal as claimed in claim 8, wherein the first annular gap opens out axially into a radial first collection channel, which runs around the axis of rotation, in the second deflector ring, and the first collection channel is open toward the environment axially surrounding the seal.

13. (Previously presented) The seal as claimed in claim 8, wherein the second annular gap opens out into a second cavity, the second cavity, which is annular in form, being at least partially enclosed by the first deflector ring and the second deflector ring.

14. (Previously presented) The seal as claimed in claim 13, wherein the second radial fin and a third radial fin, at the first deflector ring, lie freely axially opposite one another, separated from one another by the second cavity.

15. (Previously presented) The seal as claimed in claim 14, wherein the second cavity merges axially into the radial second annular gap and into a third annular gap between the third radial fin and the second deflector ring.

16. (Previously presented) The seal as claimed in claim 15, wherein the first annular gap is radially narrower than the second annular gap, and in that the second annular gap is radially narrower than the third annular gap.

17. (Previously presented) The seal as claimed in claim 15, wherein the first annular gap is further away from the axis of rotation in the radial direction than the second annular gap, and in that the second annular gap is further away from the axis of rotation in the radial direction than the third annular gap at its radially narrowest point.

18. (Previously presented) The seal as claimed in claim 15, wherein the first radial fin is radially longer than the second radial fin, and in that the second radial fin is radially longer than the third radial fin.

19. (Previously presented) The seal as claimed in claim 15, wherein the third annular gap, starting from the second cavity, runs initially radially between the third radial fin and the second deflector ring and then runs onward, in the direction of the axis of rotation, on a curved path between the third radial fin and the second deflector ring, and finally, on a side of the third radial fin which is axially remote from the second radial fin, is formed axially between the third radial fin and the second deflector ring.

20. (Previously presented) The seal as claimed in claim 15, wherein the third annular gap, starting from the second cavity, leads to a third cavity in the seal, the third cavity being enclosed at least by the first deflector ring and by the second deflector ring.

21. (Currently amended) The seal as claimed in claim 15, wherein the third annular gap runs out in the radial direction via the ~~a~~ second collection channel ~~which runs around the~~

~~axis of rotation, the second collection channel being formed at the second deflector ring, and in this arrangement the first deflector ring at least partially projecting axially beyond the second collection channel on the radially outer side~~.

22. (Currently amended) The seal as claimed in claim 25 ~~1~~, further comprising ~~wherein the second deflector ring at least partially surrounds the first deflector ring on the radially outer side, and in that~~ at least one seal with at least one elastic sealing lip starts from the inward radial limb of the second deflector ring, the sealing lip being radially prestressed against a shaft.

23. (Previously presented) The seal as claimed in claim 22, wherein the sealing lip is arranged axially next to the first deflector ring, which is seated on the shaft and delimits the seal on the axially outer side.

24. (Previously presented) The seal as claimed in claim 22, wherein the sealing lip is at least 2.5 times as long as the sealing lip is thick at the thickest point transversely with respect to this length.

25. (New) A seal for an annular opening between members, the seal comprising:

a first deflection ring concentrically arranged inside a second deflector ring and about a common axis of rotation;

two radial fins formed on the first deflection ring, extending radial outward towards

the second deflection ring without contacting the second deflection ring;

a smooth, outwardly conical, inner lateral surface formed on the second deflection ring, radially opposing the two radial fins;

a first collection channel delimited axially by the two radial fins and radially by the first deflection ring;

a first annular cavity delimited axially by the two radial fins and delimited radially by the first collection channel and the inner lateral surface; and

a second collection channel delimited by a transverse fin extending axially from an inward radial limb of the second deflection ring, the inward radial limb axially inward of the first deflection ring, the second collection channel radially inward of the first collection channel and the two radial fins.